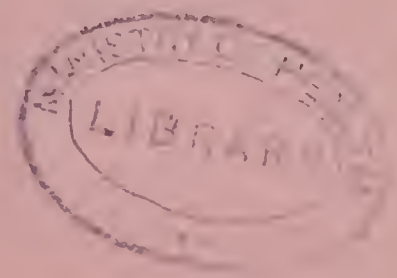


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BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1955.

To:- THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1955.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2392.4
Population - Census, 1951	3,151
Registrar General's estimate of home population	
mid-1955	3,090
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1955	1,103
Rateable Value	£15,193
Sum represented by a penny rate	£56.25

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated population at mid 1955 3,090

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	41	25	16
	Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>42</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>16</u>

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population -
 Crude rate - 13.6: adjusted rate - 13.3

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Still Births	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

Still birth-rate per 1,000 total births - 23.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 <u>live</u> births	Nil

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Deaths (all forms)	30	15	15

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)	Crude Rate	9.7
	Adjusted Rate	9.8

Respiratory T.B. 0.32

Malignant neoplasms &c 1.62

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	3
Coronary Disease - angina	2	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	1	2
Other circulatory disease	2	-
Influenza	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3
Accidents	2	-
Suicide	—	<u>2</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>

Transferable deaths are included in the above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Twenty five cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year compared with seven in the previous year. Of these seventeen were Measles.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED & age groups

	Total cases all ages	0--	2--	3--	5--	10--	15--	25--	45--	65 & over	Total deaths
Scarlet Fever	5		1	2	1	1					Nil
Measles	17	1	5	7	3	1					Nil
Whooping Cough	2		1		1						Nil
Lobar Pneumonia	1							1			Nil
	25	1	7	9	5	2		1			-

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA
National Insurance Act, 1948

No application received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising midwife in the district and a nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

For Infectious Diseases - by arrangement with the Divisional Health Office at Leigh, cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the nearest Hospital on the list that can accept accommodation.

IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer and prior to September, 1955, the children of Blackrod received treatment at Westhoughton, special transport being provided. On Sept. 3, 1955 a clinic was started in the Methodist School, Blackrod and is open every Saturday morning. The doctor is in attendance on alternative Saturday mornings for the immunisation of children under school age, or over, if necessary. Children of school age are also immunised at the school they attend.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this district are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.

MORTUARY

The mortuary situated at the Cemetery, is sufficient for the needs of the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION, 1955

Water Supply

Source of Supply - Upland surface water and springs. The Catchment area is situated in the Horwich U.D. and is moorland in character. The Undertaking is adequate for the needs of the District and bulk supplies are afforded to Wigan R.D.C. parish of Haigh and the Adlington U.D.C.

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year, and it was not found necessary to impose restrictions, even during the period of extended drought.

28 samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological analysis. 7 of these were taken from supply and were found to be satisfactory. The remaining 21 samples were taken from the various feeder streams and springs to the Reservoir, 11 of which were entirely satisfactory, the remaining samples showing pollution in varying degrees. As a precaution against pollution, the water before it enters into supply is chlorinated, the plant being automatic in operation.

Tinned lead pipe is used as a precaution against plumbo solvent action on lead.

41 new dwellings have been connected to the public mains supply, and 16 condemned houses have been cut off from supply.

The total number of houses with a piped supply of water from public mains is as follows:-

- a) Direct to houses - 1,109 - 3,154 persons.
- b) Standpipes - Nil.

Sewerage

Broad irrigation is the method used for sewage treatment. The effluent being first passed through retention tanks, where the grosser solid matters are settled out and the effluent is then passed over the land for final treatment. Adequate land is available for this method of treatment, but improvements are required to the distribution of the effluent.

Food Inspection

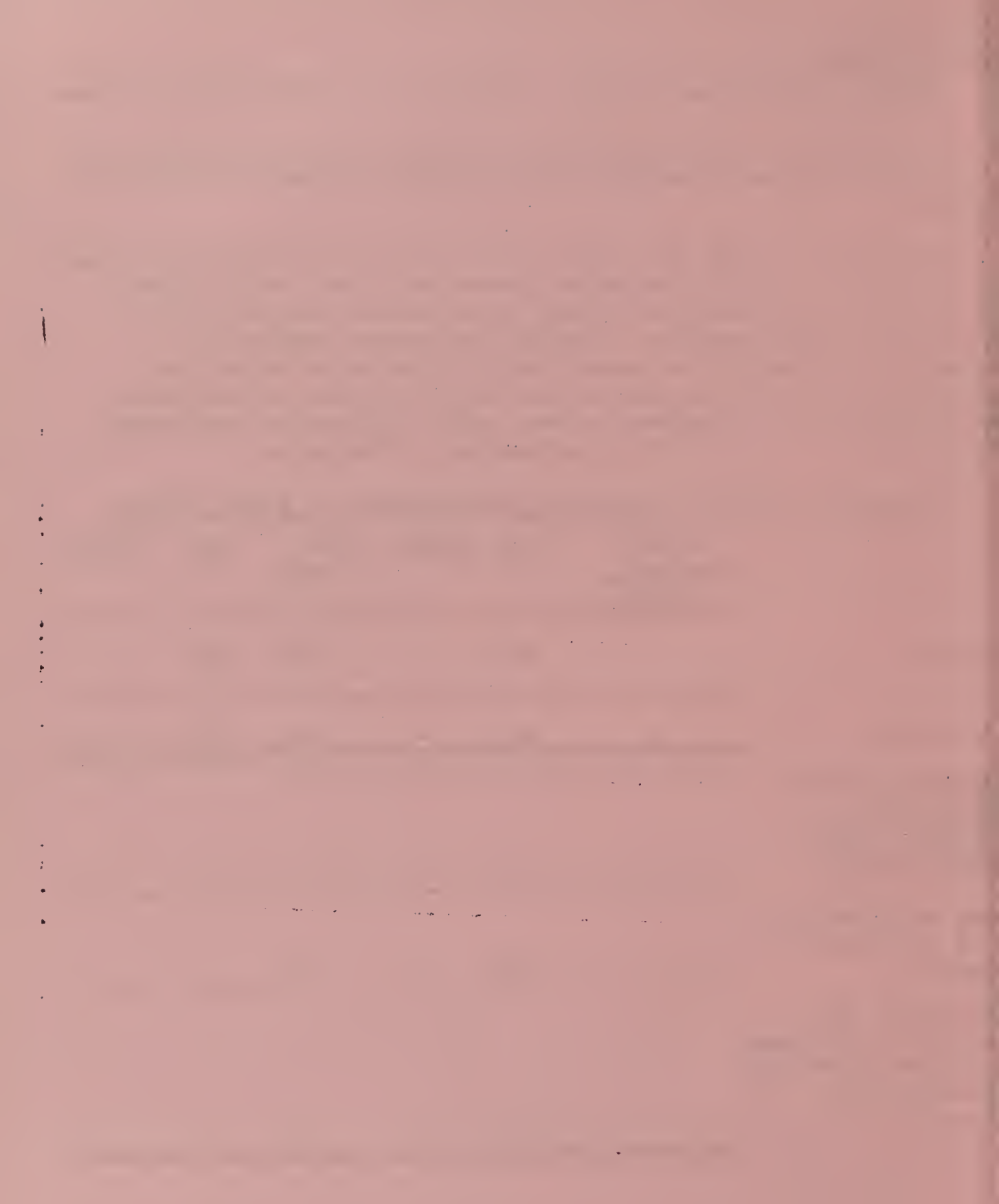
Regular inspections are made at Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

11 Premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, only pre-packed ice-cream being sold. No ice-cream is manufactured in the District.

49 samples of milk were taken from Producer and Producer/Retailers and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for Bacteriological Examination. 47 samples were found to be satisfactory and 2 had Tubercle Infection present. The Milk and Dairies Regulations procedure restricting the sale of milk unless satisfactory heat treatment is carried out, was served on the Producer in both cases, and this Order was continued in force until a Clearance Certificate was supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Carcasses and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or part

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	-	58	-	184	33	-
No. Inspected	-	58	-	184	33	-
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>tuberculosis &</u> <u>cysticercia. Whole</u> <u>carcass condemned</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Carcass of which some</u> <u>part or organ was</u> <u>condemned</u>	-	17	-	6	-	-
<u>Percentage of the</u> <u>no. inspected, affected</u> <u>with disease other than</u> <u>tuberculosis and</u> <u>cysticercia</u>	-	29	-	3	-	-



	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
whole carcass condemned	6	-	-	-	-	-
carcass of which some part was condemned	-	3	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with T.B.	-	5	-	-	3	-
<u>Cystuercosis</u>						
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Scavenging of Streets

The Lancashire County Council are the Highway Authority for Class I & II Roads, and they scavenge these roads. Class III Roads are delegated to the District Council who maintain them along with District Roads.

Sanitary Inspections during the year

No. of Premises visited	126
Defects or nuisances discovered	29
Notices served (Informal)	29
Notices served (Statutory)	21
Legal Proceedings	Nil

Shops and Offices

77 Inspections were made to shops in connection with the provision of the Shops Act, 1950. 2 Inspections were made to offices in connection with the provision of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in operation in the District.

Public Cleansing

Direct labour is used for the collection of domestic refuse, collections being made at weekly intervals. One motor vehicle is used for this purpose, the refuse being disposed of by tipping into disused colliery shafts, and by filling in pits and low lying agricultural land. The Authority are now providing Dust bins to domestic premises as a charge against the rates. This is found to be a far superior method than that of deciding on whom to serve Notice to provide.

Schools

There are 3 Junior Schools and 1 Secondary Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation is adequate at all schools.

The playground surface at the National School is uneven and dangerous. At the National School the facilities for taking and preparing the serving of meals is unsatisfactory.

There are insufficient facilities for washing of hands at the School.

Bakehouses

There are two Bakehouses in the District, only one being used at the present time, and this is inspected regularly.

Factories & Workshops

Number in District	7.
Rayon Processing	1.
Weaving Shed	1.
Joiner	1.
Clogger - Boot Repairer	1.

Rodent Control

The public sewers are treated at six monthly intervals, and regular inspections are made to business, farms and domestic properties, in connection with rodent control.

Public Conveniences

Two public conveniences are provided in the District, and these are sited one at the Junction of Blackhorse Street with Chorley Road and Hill Lane, and one at the junction of Manchester Road with Station Road.

Closet Accommodation

Privy Middens	9
Closets attached to Middens	12
No. of Dry Ashpits	Nil
No. of Fresh Water Closets	1,147
No. of Waste Water Closets	Nil
No. of Refuse Bins	1,122

Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District

The improvement and reconditioning of sub-standard property.

The demolition of all unfit property.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

Dalton House,
Westhoughton.

Medical Officer of Health.

5th July, 1956.

